

10 August 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Staff Meeting Minutes of 10 August 1979

The Director was at a speaking engagement in Dallas; Mr. Carlucci was on leave; Mr. Bowie chaired the meeting. []

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McMahon said he has brought the Director up to date on the status of [] Nicaragua. He said reporting continues to be pessimistic on the deteriorating situation in the Sudan, noting there are no signs as to whether or not Sadat will come to Numayri's assistance as he did in 1971. []

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[] called attention to an article, "CIA Head Faults Plans for MX" in today's Baltimore Sun which he said is inaccurate. He said OPA is not responding to public inquiries. [] added the article is an obvious attempt to insinuate Administration in-fighting on the MX issue, and Bowie, who attended the meeting with the Director, briefed on the latter's presentation.

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[] said leaks such as the above could be expected as sides are jockeying on what if anything should be added to the FY 1980 defense budget prior to action on the final Congressional budget resolution scheduled for 15 September. [] said he has drafted a letter for the Director responding to Senator McGovern's request for declassification of the [] report, noting this is a feckless exercise and that the Director should be kept out of it; he said potential roadblocks by CIA involvement would not help our public image. []

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[] reported re a suit against columnist Jack Anderson for the return of classified documents (NIDs). While noting that political aspects are formidable for Attorney General Civiletti to take on Anderson, he said Department of Justice views all technical aspects of this suit to be good. He said also that DOJ's Criminal Division will decide today on the legality of arresting Agee if he enters the U.S. (reportedly on 11 August) and the Civil Division will decide today on action against Agee's publicizing the names of Agency personnel in Africa. [] reported problems growing out of review of Kermit Roosevelt's book on the overthrow of Iran's Mossadegh in 1953. []

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May reported on the heavy response to our recruitment ad campaign; he said the daily average of phone calls has jumped from 1400 to 3100 and that key recruiters are being sought by the media for interviews. []

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Noting long term interests in stimulating FBIS to publish indices to its Daily Reports, Dirks said a commercial firm (Newsbank) has ventured successfully in indexing Daily Reports on China and is ready to broaden this venture to other areas, at least in a test phase starting with Latin America. []

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Shackley announced he would retire on 31 August. []

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[] said the Director would be returning from Dallas this evening with no plans to be in his office tomorrow. []

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Attachment

OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS NEWS SERVICE

Date. 10 August 79
Item No. 1
Ref. No. _____

DISTRIBUTION II

Taken from the Baltimore Sun, 10 August 79,
page A-1



ADM. STANSFIELD TURNER
... comments called "personal view"

CIA head faults plans for MX

By CHARLES W. CORDDRY
Washington Bureau of The Sun

Washington—Adm. Stansfield Turner, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, registered strong objection at a White House meeting this week to the latest plans for building MX intercontinental missiles and deploying them in "race track" patterns in Western states, authoritative sources disclosed yesterday.

Contrary to earlier reports from administration sources that a consensus had been reached, Admiral Turner raised exceptions to the scheme, which goes to the heart of United States strategic nuclear force planning.

If the admiral, now retired from the Navy, had his way, the sources said, the U.S. would gradually do away with land-based missiles and concentrate on upgrading missile-launching submarine fleets and retaining bomber forces. It would have two kinds of nuclear forces instead of the present "triad."

Admiral Turner, a spokesman for him said, would not comment on the reports emanating from the Tuesday White House meeting he attended with Cyrus R. Vance, Secretary of State, Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's national security assistant, and Gen. David C. Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to discuss the MX deployment plan with Harold Brown, Secretary of Defense.

That plan, the latest of several and the one Mr. Brown is expected to propose to President Carter in about two weeks, calls for shunting 200 missiles among 4,600 horizontal shelters. The shelters would be arranged in closed loops, or race track fashion, so that the missiles could be kept mobile among them and thus protected against a Soviet strike.

The plan is said to have answered political and environmental objections in the states concerned, mainly Utah and Nevada, with possibilities of deployment also in Arizona and New Mexico.

Admiral Turner's objections were viewed by authorities as somewhat mystifying in view of the reported position already taken by his advisers at the Central Intelligence Agency.

The CIA staff position, it was said, is that the MX missiles could be counted by Soviet reconnaissance satellites—as required by the SALT II treaty—and could

be regarded as highly "survivable" under attack, based on estimates of Russian nuclear capabilities.

The admiral's reasons for dissent could not be determined, given his own silence on the matter, but critics immediately ascribed a Navy bias to them—in brief, a view that the Navy should take over the dominant nuclear deterrent role. The authoritative sources said he argued his case as the personal view of a military man.

This was but the latest instance of a publicly reported Turner view causing some embarrassment to Carter administration defense planners. He was recently held to have told the Senate Intelligence Committee the Russians could produce five new missiles under the SALT treaty, whereas the public version had been that only one new type was allowed.

Mr. Brown later explained in SALT hearings that any, besides the one, would have to be so closely related in dimensions to present types that they would be a waste of money, in his opinion.

As with the present case of the MX, Admiral Turner offered no public statement on the Soviet missile question.

President Carter made a basic decision in the first week of June to proceed with the development of the MX, a rocket weighing 190,000 pounds and carrying 10 separately targeted warheads.